

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 28, 1974

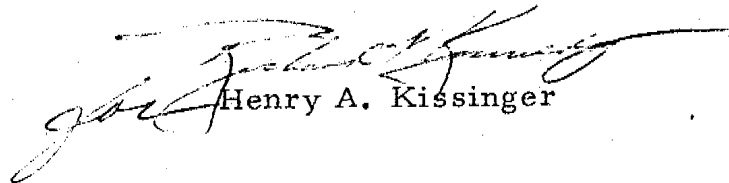
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MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Disposition of U. S. EC-47 Aircraft in
Thailand

The disposition of Thailand-based EC-47 aircraft recommended in Deputy Secretary Clements' memorandum of June 18, 1974, has been approved.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Director of Central Intelligence
The Under Secretary of State for
Political Affairs

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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OSD Review Completed.

MEMORANDUM

2487

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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25 June 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: RICHARD T. KENNEDY

FROM: W. R. SMYER
DONALD A. MACDONALD *DM*

SUBJECT: Disposition of U.S. EC-47
Aircraft in Thailand

NSDM 249 (Tab C) required inter alia that the Secretary of Defense prepare and submit plans and recommendations on the transfer of Thailand based U.S. EC-47 aircraft to either South Vietnam or Thailand or some combination of the two. The Secretary of Defense's recommended disposition of these aircraft is at Tab B.

Essentially, the Secretary recommends keeping in South Vietnam the 30 EC-47's now there. He also recommends splitting up the 22 EC-47's in Thailand as follows: 7 to South Vietnam; 5 to Thailand; 3 to Korea; 7 to the U.S. The more modern equipment will be on the aircraft stationed in South Vietnam.

We believe the Defense proposal is both militarily and politically sound. South Vietnam will receive the computerized ALR-35 equipment which has proven to be effective in identifying and locating enemy units along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and within South Vietnam. Thailand will receive the less sophisticated ALR-34 equipment which is both easier to maintain and effective against the insurgent threat in that country. More important, however, is the fact that the five aircraft the Thais will receive are in excellent condition having been maintained by the USAF in Thailand.

The three EC-47's proposed for Korea will be able to monitor only VHF transmissions and will have no direction finding capability. But there is an effective Korean DMZ and the primary objective is simple line-of-sight collection. The three EC-47's going to Korea will be effective in this role.

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The proposed disposition will not violate Article 7 of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam since any C-47 can be substituted for another and the total inventory will still be one below that which existed at the cease fire.

State and CIA concur with this disposition.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A for the Secretary of Defense on behalf of Secretary Kissinger approving the proposed EC-47 disposition.

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

18 JUN 1974

DECLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Disposition of U.S. EC-47 Aircraft in Thailand

Reference: (a) National Security Decision Memorandum 249, subject,
U.S. Deployment in Thailand, dated 23 March 1974

(S) The reference directed that the Secretary of Defense prepare and submit plans and recommendations on the transfer of EC-47 aircraft to either South Vietnam or Thailand or some combination of the two.

(S) There are presently 30 EC-47 aircraft (2 non-operational) in South Vietnam and 22 U.S. EC-47's in Thailand. The recommended disposition of these aircraft is as follows:

- 25 EC-47's equipped with ALR 34 (manual D/F) Airborne Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) systems remain in SVN.
- 5 EC-47's re-equipped with ALR 35 systems remain in SVN.
- 7 EC-47's in Thailand with ALR-35 systems transferred to SVN.
- 5 EC-47's in Thailand re-equipped with ALR 34 systems transferred to the Thai.
- 7 EC-47's equipped with ALR 38 (computerized D/F, HF, VHF) in Thailand should be returned to USAF inventory.
- 3 EC-47's equipped with VHF positions only (no ARDF systems) be transferred to the Republic of Korea from Thailand.

DECLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED TO:
CONFIDENTIAL on 31Dec76
DECLASSIFY on 31Dec82
Classified by ASD/I

SEC DEF CONTR No. X-1794

DECLASSIFIED

(S) This recommended disposition of 7 additional EC-47's to the SVN plus upgraded capability on 5 of the existing VNAF EC-47's provide the SVN with a total of 37 EC-47 aircraft, four more than the cease fire inventory. This increase is, however, not considered in violation of Article 7 of the agreement on ending the war. We have taken the position that any C-47 can be substituted for another C-47. The total number of C-47 type aircraft is currently 8 below the inventory level of C-47 aircraft authorized under the terms of the agreement. Therefore, the seven EC-47's can now be introduced into RVN without violation of the cease fire agreement.

A. P. Clement
Deputy

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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March 23, 1974

National Security Decision Memorandum 249

TO: The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Deputy Secretary of State

SUBJECT: U. S. Deployments in Thailand

The President has reviewed the studies submitted in response to NSSM 171, related studies, and the views of the concerned Departments and Agencies. He has directed that the following actions be taken:

The Secretary of Defense should:

- Withdraw unessential non-strike aircraft (EC-121's and C-130's) by June 1, 1974.
- Withdraw US combat forces between May 15 and December 31, 1974, to a residual level of nine tactical air squadrons, one AC-130 gunship squadron and 17 B-52's, as outlined in the plan presented by the Secretary of Defense. These withdrawals should be spaced over the period in question, with the precise timing of the withdrawals to be determined in consultation with the Thai Government.
- Reduce MACTHAI/JUSMAGTHAI and U. S. Army Support Command manpower by 30 percent by August 31, 1974, consolidate headquarters wherever possible and eliminate all unessential headquarters and support units.

The Deputy Secretary of State should:

- Immediately initiate consultations with the Royal Thai Government on the foregoing withdrawal plans, on means of reducing the economic dislocation caused by these withdrawals, and on securing re-entry rights.

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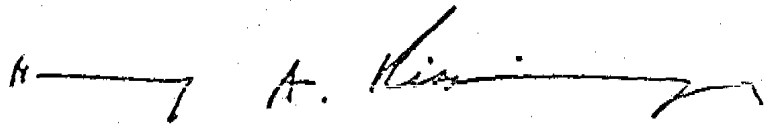
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The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Deputy Secretary of State, should prepare and submit for the President's consideration no later than May 1, 1974, recommendations as to equipment and facilities associated with US forces in Thailand that can be made available for turnover to the Thai as US forces are withdrawn.

The Secretary of Defense should also prepare and submit for the President's consideration no later than May 1, 1974, alternative plans and recommendations on the transfer of EC-47 aircraft to either South Vietnam or Thailand or some combination of the two.

The Secretary of Defense in coordination with the Director of Central Intelligence and the Deputy Secretary of State should submit recommendations on alternative long term (FY 76 and beyond) US military force levels in Thailand and proposed withdrawal plans to support each of the alternatives. These recommendations should be submitted not later than June 30, 1974, for consideration by the NSC Senior Review Group.



Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Director, Office of Management and Budget
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT:

Disposition of U.S. EC-47 Aircraft
in Thailand

With regard to the disposition of Thailand based U.S. EC-47 aircraft recommended in Deputy Secretary Clements' memorandum of June 18, 1974, the President has directed the following:

- 25 EC-47's equipped with ALR 34 Airborne Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) systems will remain in South Vietnam.
- 5 EC-47's re-equipped with ALR 35 systems will remain in South Vietnam.
- 7 EC-47's in Thailand with ALR 35 systems will be transferred to South Vietnam.
- 5 EC-47's in Thailand will be re-equipped with ALR 34 systems and transferred to Thailand.
- 7 EC-47's equipped with ALR 38 in Thailand will be returned to USAF inventory.
- 3 EC-47's equipped with VHF positions only will be transferred to the Republic of Korea from Thailand.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Director of Central Intelligence
The Under Secretary of State for
Political Affairs

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